

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In this thesis, I choose to analyze a novel entitled The Turn of the Screw by Henry James and I will discuss the social and inner conflicts of the protagonist. I am interested in analyzing Henry James's The Turn of the Screw because this novel was phenomenal at that time that was regarded as one of the best gothic novels. The American Monthly Review of Reviews termed the story, "the finest work ... [James] has ever done--for the foul breath of the bottomless pit itself, which strikes the reader full in the face as he follows the plot, puts to shame by its penetrating force and quiet ghastliness of the commonplace, unreal 'horrors' of the ordinary ghost-story; it does indeed give an extra 'turn of the screw' beyond anything of the sort that fiction has yet provided" (Parkinson).

At the turn of the 20th century, in 1898, Henry James published a novel entitled The Turn of the Screw and ever since, there has been many conflicting interpretations among the critics (Stubbs 1). Many readers around 1900

interpreted the book as a ghost story of a particularly horrific kind because it involves two young children. It contains conventional gothic elements such as dark and cold places, long corridors, houses with towers, “the first person narrator is a young woman in a large country house with towers and dark corridors, who admits she may be mad” (Stubbs 2).

The literary elements that I am going to analyze in this thesis are social and inner conflicts. As defined by Richard M Eastman, psychological (inner) conflict is “a struggle between desires within a man”, while social conflict is “the struggle between the opposing forces and naturally between two person” (Eastman 114). In the novel, both conflicts are faced by the governess, the protagonist of the story. These conflicts are interesting to analyze because the characters in the novel have different perspectives.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problems of this study are:

1. What are social and inner conflicts of the protagonist in the novel?
2. How are the social and inner conflicts in the novel resolved?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Based on the statement of the problem, the purposes of the study are:

1. To find social and inner conflicts of the protagonist in the novel.
2. To show how the social and inner conflicts in the novel are resolved.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

I read The Turn of the Screw by Henry James as my primary text. I also do some research in the library and read some sources from the Internet that can support my analysis in my thesis, and then I make a concluding remark in my thesis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

I divide the thesis into three chapters, which is preceded by the Acknowledgement, Table of Contents and Abstract. In the first chapter I present the Background of the Study, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two consists of the Analysis of Social and Inner Conflicts in The Turn of the Screw. Chapter Three is the Conclusion, followed by the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consist of the Synopsis of The Turn of the Screw and the Biography of Henry James.